



Magnolia Matters

News from Magnolia Community Services | Summer 2022



"Aloha" to Mary McDuff and Maria Miller!

On July 28, Magnolia Community Services residents and staff gathered in the Nims Center, decked in tie-dye shirts and leis, for a summer luau to celebrate two special occasions for longtime Recreation Director Mary McDuff - her birthday and her dedication to Magnolia as she retired her fulltime position.

To thank Mary for 43 years of service, Jennifer Conrad presented Mary with a golden bowling pin and a silver magnolia pendant.

Lt. David Roddy, an officer in the Jefferson Parish Sherriff's Office and Mary's son, spoke of the great love and care that his mom has for our clients, and how it inspired him to serve vulnerable members of our community.

Mary will assist our new recreation director, Maria Miller, with bowling in a part time position. Maria joined Magnolia in 2004 and recently served in the Day Habilitation program. She's looking forward to spending more time with the clients and doing recreational activities with them.



A Note from Executive Director, Jennifer Conrad

At the height of a very busy summer, you can see that we have much to celebrate. I am excited and eager for what is to come!

While staffing remains our number one concern, we continue to recruit and explore other ways to enhance our workforce. Like Dr. Bloom, we're working with local partners like the Tulane School of Social Work and Ochsner to lead the way for adults with developmental disabilities.

We are working to expand our volunteer base so that we will have a thriving volunteer program with people to help in many areas of our organization. If you or your organization have a few hours to give, I encourage you to get in touch with Maria at 504-731-1339 or mariat@mcs-nola.org.

Moving into the fall season, I look forward to the energy and ideas that will be generated by new and existing staff and clients, and working with everyone to bring them to fruition.



Partnerships with Tulane and Ochsner Explored to Benefit Magnolia Clients and Services



Over the summer, Magnolia explored partnerships with two of New Orleans' trusted community partners, which will ultimately benefit Magnolia clients.

Under the direction of Dr. Sara Fernandez, Magnolia provided an educational experience for a medical school student, Charles Sisk. Charles immersed himself in the daily lives of our residents, performing various activities including drawing blood and responding to seizures. Upon his departure, he gave us many ideas to enhance our residents' physical well-being, and we plan to initiate some of these very soon. Charles remarked, "Perhaps the most crucial lesson learned during my placement is that just because a client does not say there is anything medically wrong with them, does not mean that there is absolutely nothing wrong." We plan to continue this venture with Ochsner's MD Program through the University of Queensland.

Magnolia administration recently met with a representative from the Tulane University School of Social Work. We are looking into the possibility of having students studying for their Master's in Social Work complete an internship at Magnolia. We hope these student interns would be interested in our field and working with our population.

We are happy to announce that Racquel Castaneda is our new Residential Program Manager. She is a first generation college graduate from a family that immigrated from El Salvador. Racquel's brother has Down syndrome, and he inspired her to enter into this field. She has been an advocate for families and individuals with disabilities, and in 2018 she joined Magnolia as a case manager. Racquel commented, "I have enjoyed my four years serving the clients and their families, and am excited to keep doing so as the Residential Program Manager."



SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for our annual Magnolia Moonlight Gala,
presented by the Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust!

Friday November 4, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Whitehall Grounds on Magnolia's Main Campus

Entertainment by The Topcats

Purchase sponsorship or tickets:

<https://give.classy.org/magnoliagala>

Proceeds directly benefit Magnolia Community
Service clients and programs

**Magnolia
Moonlight
GALA**
Benefitting Adults
with Developmental Disabilities

Presented by the Oscar J. Tolmas
Charitable Trust



*Left:
Paul enjoys a scavenger
hunt during an outing to
the New Orleans Jazz
Museum.*



*Right:
Elvin and Julie had fun
with water balloons and
super soakers during
Water Day organized by
recreation and
vocational.*



*Left:
David and
Rebecca
celebrate the
Fourth of July
in the Nims.*



*Right:
On Flag Day,
Dale recites
the Pledge of
Allegiance.*

Now Hiring!

Magnolia Community Services has not been immune to the hiring crisis affecting its industry and community. To provide high level of care for their clients, Magnolia is hiring in these key positions:

- Direct Care Staff (DSP | CMA | CNA)
- Instructor in Day Habilitation Program
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Residential Case Manager

To apply, please email
careers@mcs-nola.org or visit:
www.mcs-nola.org/careers

Support Magnolia

Please consider becoming a
RECURRING DONOR.

Monthly or quarterly giving ensures steady funding that Magnolia can count on. Magnolia clients can rely on their dedicated staff because they can rely on generous donors.

www.mcs-nola.org/support



Magnolia
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Leading the way for people with
developmental disabilities

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100 Central Avenue
Jefferson, LA 70121

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